

REMARKS

Initially, applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the helpful and courteous telephonic interview conducted with applicant's undersigned representative on 14 December 2005. In such interview, the Examiner requested and received authorization to cancel the non-elected claims in the application via an Examiner's amendment so as to place the application in condition for allowance. The Examiner did not, however, cancel the non-elected claims or allow the application at that time, and has subsequently issued the Office Action of 14 July 2006.

Upon entry of the present amendment, which cancels all rejected claims and all claims that have been withdrawn from consideration, only allowed claims 2-4, 7, 9, 18, 20, 43, 45 and 48 remain in the application, of which claims 2 and 48 are independent.

Amendments Presented

Again, applicant has canceled all rejected and non-elected claims from the application, leaving only allowed claims 2-4, 7, 9, 18, 20, 43, 45 and 48.

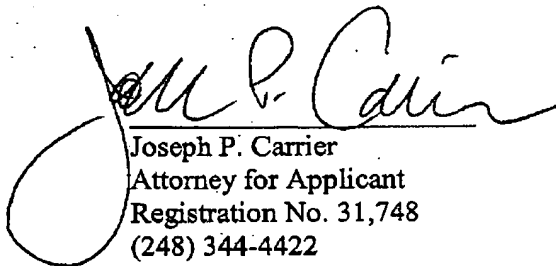
Correspondingly, the application is now believed to be in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner is not fully convinced of all of the claims now in the application, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner telephonically contact applicant's undersigned representative to expeditiously resolve prosecution of the application.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted, via facsimile, to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on October 11, 2006.

